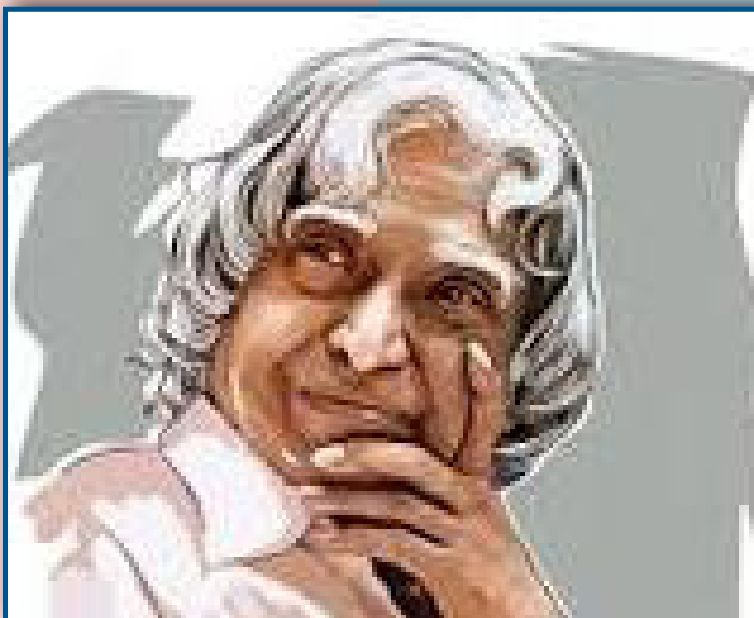


Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's Vision for India

(Few excerpts from his speech delivered at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad)

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was an aerospace scientist who served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering. He spent the next four decades as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). He is also known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. Dr Kalam was not only a scientist or people's leader but also a great visionary. Dr Kalam strongly advocated for poverty-free India. He also advocated the poverty alleviation approach known as "Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas" (PURA). A few glimpses of his vision about India as discussed at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad is given in below.



I have three visions for India. In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, The Greeks, the Turks, the Moguls, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and Tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others.

That is why my first vision is that of FREEDOM. I believe that India got its first vision of this in 1857 when we started the war of Independence. It is this

freedom that we must protect and nurture and build on. If we are not free, no one will respect us.

My second vision for India's DEVELOPMENT, for fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. We are among the top five nations of the world in

terms of GDP. We have a 10 per cent growth rate in most areas. Our poverty levels are falling. Our achievements are being globally recognized today. Yet we lack the self-confidence to see ourselves as a developed nation, self-reliant and self-assured. Isn't this incorrect?

I have a THIRD vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that, unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand-in-hand.

NEWS AND EVENTS

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Centre has organized a Capacity Building Workshop for Entrepreneurs on 11th October 2019 at Indian Institute of Management Shillong. This workshop was attended by 30 Entrepreneurs from Assam and Meghalaya from four sectors such as Horticulture, Handicraft, Handloom and Tourism. Objectives of this workshop were to enhance the capacity of entrepreneurs on marketing and managing finance and to assess the level of awareness among the entrepreneurs about different policies of Government. The workshop was directed by Prof. Keya Sengupta and other faculties from Indian Institute of Management Shillong namely Dr Bidyut Jyoti Gogoi and Dr Pratap Chandra Mandal took classes on marketing and finance.



RELEASE OF NEWSLETTER



The official newsletter of the Centre was formally released by Dr K Radhakrishnan, Ex-Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 15th October 2019 on the eve of birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, Indian Institute of Management Shillong at the auditorium in where Dr Kalam gave his last public lecture. Centre Coordinator, Professor Keya Sengupta and other faculty members, staff and Student of Indian Institute of Management as well as staffs of the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis attend the programme. The centre plans to publish its Newsletter covering all the update regarding the policy research and different activities of Centre quarterly.

GOVERNING BODY MEETING

The second Governing Body meeting of the Centre was held on 17th December 2019 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shri K.Moses Chalai, at the Board Room of Indian Institute of Management Shillong. The meeting was also attended by Professor D P Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong, Professor Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis. The board has taken several strategic decisions to fulfil the objectives of the Centre. Fur-



ther, the Board has approved one academic advisor and one professional expert to assist the Centre in policy drafting and skill-building of the entrepreneurs of North East India. Professor Biman Kumar Dutta, Member, North Eastern Council, Shri Calvin Harris Kharshiing, Planning Adviser, North Eastern Council and Shri Gopal Chetri, Adviser- Irrigation, Flood Control & Water Management, North Eastern Council also attended the meeting as a special invitee.

VISIT OF FORMER UNION MINISTER

KJ Alphons, former Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Government of India and current Rajyasabha MP visited the Centre on 21st October 2019. He has shared his experiences about the drafting of Tourism policy being as a Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism. Major focus accord-



ing to him needs to give in North East India to boost up the tourism sector are infrastructure development and branding of tourism of North East. According to him, the states of the North East may adopt the tourism model of Lakshadweep.

PROFESSOR MP BEZBARUAH VISITED THE CENTRE

Professor Madhurjya Prasad Bezbaruah, an eminent economist and presently the Professor of Department of Economics, Gauhati University, Guwahati have visited the Centre on 28th October 2019. He shared his expertise on policy drafting and policy analysis with the staffs of the Centre. Further, he provided valuable input regarding the assessment of the existing status of the entire six sectors i.e. Horticulture, Handicraft, Handloom, Tourism, Business Process Outsourcing and Logistics.



PROJECT MANAGER (LIVELIHOODS) NERLP VISITED THE CENTRE

Project Manager (Livelihoods) of World Bank funded North East Rural Livelihood Project Mr Birendra Pun visited the Centre on 17th December 2019. The officials of the Centre interacted with him regarding different avenue to organize capacity building workshop for entrepreneurs of North East India. He shared his valuable expertise on livelihoods and value chain with the officials of the Centre.



DELEGATION TO SOUTH INDIA

Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati, Centre Manager attended a study tour organized by North Eastern Council to South India to study eco and sustainable tourism. As a part of the study, he visited Swamimalai, Tanjore and Yarcod of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. This study team was led by Honorable member of North Eastern Council, Professor Biman Kumar Dutta and different officials of Tourism Department of North Eastern States as well as other autonomous organizations such as Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship Guwahati, Cane and Bamboo Technology, Byrnihat attended this tour. The objective of the study tour was to understand the possibility of rural-based eco-tourism in South India and find out the way to replicate the model in different parts of North East India as this part of India is famous for its rich ecological heritage.

FIELD VISIT REPORT

LOGISTICS

The logistics sector in the North East is a growing industry and is undergoing a transformative phase. Abundant with lush natural resources, it has the potential to form a key corollary of the India growth story. The industry is preparing to face the changing logistics sector dynamics, which are expected to traverse a consolidation curve. Northeast India is being developed as a gateway to Southeast Asia under

the Central government's Act East Policy (AEP). A well-developed and interconnected road network is imperative to enhancing the logistics capabilities of the North East which is characterized by uneven and hilly terrain. The focus under the "Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE)", a key initiative of the government's flagship Bharatmala program can go a long way in providing crucial connectivity to far-flung regions in the North East. In this connection, Dr Kiran Sharma, Research Assistant of the Centre has interacted with Prof. Madhurjya Prasad Bezbarua, Academic Adviser, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy



Research and Analysis for developing the research methodology to collect the necessary data from the field. She has also visited the different organizations to retrieve the related information for Logistics sectors such as Shillong General Post office, Police Bazaar, Shillong where she discussed the problems of transportation in an around city, general problems faced by Postman and the efficient waste minimization by the post office. Food Corporation of India (FCI) godown, Mawlai, Shillong, where she made

her second visit to understand the effective usage of Information and Communication Technology to integrate the various aspects of the supply chain. The other visit includes CMP godown, Nongmynsong, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI); Guwahati, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, North East Regional Centre Guwahati (NIRD& PR-NERC).

HANDICRAFTS



Handicraft sector plays a significant role in the country's economy as it provides employment to a vast segment of the craftsman in rural and semi-urban areas and generates substantial foreign exchange while preserving its cultural heritage. The spirit of handicraft is the raw materials used for crafts which are easily available leading to craftsmen producing products in unlimited numbers without any negative impact on sustainability. During this period, the Research Assistant of the Centre, Boishali Gogoi attended the 11th East Himalayan Trade Fair (EHTF), organized by the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in collaboration with Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Meghalaya with the theme "MSME- an Engine for NER Growth" on 21st October 2019. She has inter-

acted with the participants (Entrepreneurs and artisans) mentioning their various difficulties and their recommendations and help they expect from the Government. Then on 22nd October 2019, she visited National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Guwahati. Moreover, she made interaction with Prof. M. P. Bezbaruah, Academic Adviser of the Centre regarding the ongoing status report on Handicraft in North East India.

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING

Apart from the secondary sources of information, various initiatives have been undertaken by the Centre to interact with the people involved in the BPO to obtain necessary insights about the empirical scenario prevalent in the region. Accordingly, the Research Assistant of the Centre Simi Sharma made a field visit to the 11th East Himalayan Trade Fair organised by Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in collaboration with Commerce and Industries Department, Govt of Meghalaya at Polo ground, Shillong to interact with the participants to discuss about the problems related to the six identified sectors. Although the BPO sector has a dismal association with this kind of trade fair and exhibi-



tions, yet some issues like online marketing and availing loans and subsidies were discussed with the stakeholders (participants) present in the fair. Further, on 22nd November 2019, a visit was conducted to North Eastern Development and Finance Institution (NEDFi), Dispur, Assam to interact with the Officials of NEDFi to collect necessary data relevant for research on the selected sectors. The officials informed about the TEDF Study reports of NEDFi and suggested to follow the necessary procedures to avail them. Along with the NEDFi House, a brief interaction also took place with Shri Mukunda Madhab Pujari, Head SeMT, Assam- Programme Management, and Assam to understand the ground realities of the BPO sector in Assam. She also had a meeting with Prof. Madhurjya Prasad Bezbaruah, Academic Adviser of the Centre.

HANDLOOM



The handloom industry is one of the oldest cottage industries in India diffused widely through the country. The artisans of India are famous for hand spinning, hand printing and hand typing. They are accustomed to the art of weaving as a hereditary occupation. The handloom sector embodies the rich traditional, historical and cultural diversity that distinguishes India from the rest of the world. It has

been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another. Handloom is one the priority sector for Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis because of its potentiality in North East India. To have a brief idea about the Centre the Research Assistant Hitesh Gamit visited the “11th East Himalayan Trade Fair” (EHTF), which was organized by the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in collaboration with Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Meghalaya, from 16th to 22nd October 2019 at SRGT parking area, Polo Ground, Shillong with the theme “MSME-An Engine for NER Growth”. The objective of the visit was “to interact with the participants (entrepreneurs and weavers) and to know the issues of the handloom industry and marketing challenges. The Trade Fair was aimed at providing a platform for publicity and marketing of products and services of MSME unites of the Northeastern region. The trade fair was also in line with the Act East Policy which recognizes the importance of the Northeast as the gateway to Southeast Asian countries. Altogether there were 77 MSME unites from the entire Northeastern region displayed their wide range of products like Handloom, Handicrafts, horticulture, food items etc. Further he also the part of the study team who have visited Guwahati and he has interacted with officials of National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) Guwahati, and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) Guwahati. He has also made interaction with Prof MP Bezbarua regarding ongoing study report on Handloom.

TOURISM

The Research Assistant Ibadahun Khongwir attended the first capacity building workshop organized for entrepreneurs of Assam and Meghalaya by the centre on 10th October 2019. She has interacted with the entrepreneurs of Tourism from these states to understand the existing status of the sector in Assam



and Meghalaya. Further, she also interacted with Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam, the former Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism who visited the Centre on 21st October 2019. On the 22nd November 2019, she visited Assam Tourism Development Corporation Ltd and discussed the policy issues with the Director Mrs Maity Das. She also interacted with Prof. M.P. Bezbaruah, Department of Economics, Gauhati University and discussed the different policy issues related to tourism in the region.

HORTICULTURE

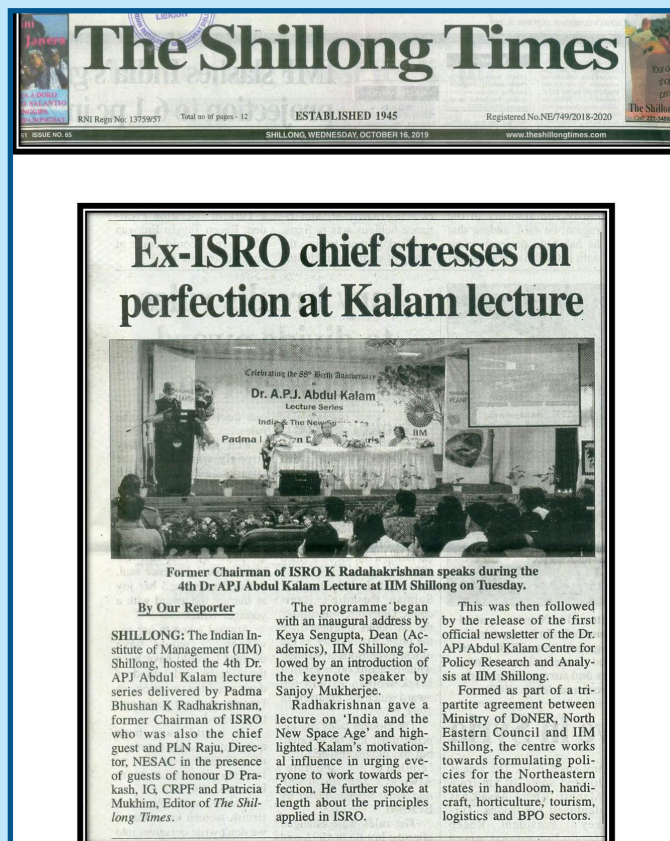
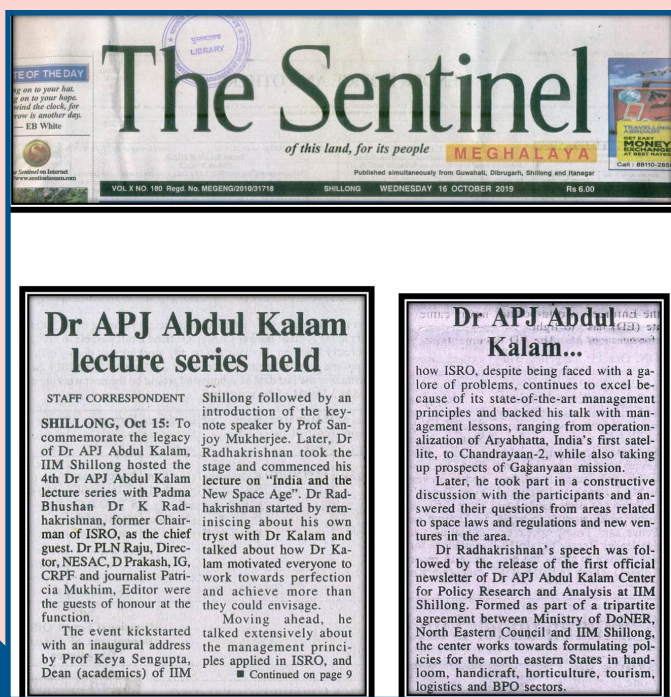
Dr Bathsheba G Pyngrope, Research Assistant of the Centre visited the East Himalayan Trade Fair at SRGT Playground, Polo, Shillong on the 21st of October, 2019. The interaction with Artisan and SHGs at the East Himalayan Trade Fair brought out the problems and economic challenges faced by artisans and craftsman usually encountered with marketing and logistics issues of their products. Further she on the 22nd of November, 2019 made an official visit to the Department of Horticulture, Krishi Bhavan, Guwahati and interacted with Shri. P.K. Mahanta, Director of Horticulture. The discussion brought out the various schemes that were being implemented

by the state of Assam as well as the implementation of various central Government schemes related to the sector. She also interacted with Prof. M.P. Bezbaruah, Department of Economics, Gauhati University and discussed the different policy issues related to horticulture in the region.



UPCOMING EVENT

- One Day Capacity Building Training for Entrepreneurs of Nagaland



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